

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05858 192327Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 /123 W

----- 125761

R 191707Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8073

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS MOSCOW 5858

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV TAKES HUGE LEAD IN LEGISLATIVE RACE

1. NOMINATION OF FULL POLITBURO MEMBERS FROM SUPREME SOVIET LOCAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS BEGAN APRIL 18. PRAVDA REPORTAGE OF NOMINATIONS SHOWS BREZHNEV FAR AHEAD OF POLITBURO PEERS WITH NOMINATIONS FROM 21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS. PODGORNYY AND KOSYGIN ARE TIED AT 11 EACH. KIRILENKO AND SUSLOV HAVE 4 EACH AND REMAINING MEMBERS HAVE ONLY TWO EACH.

2. PRIMACY OF TOP FIVE LEADERS CLEARLY SHOWN IN FIRST DAY OF REPORTING. BREZHNEV'S LEAD, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL CONTINUE THROUGH NOMINATIONS, SEEMS EVEN LARGER THAN IN 1970.

3. POLITICAL RHETORIC DESCRIBING VIRTUES OF CANDIDATES SEEMS MUCH WARMER AND LONGER THAN WAS CASE IN 1970, WITH BREZHNEV GAINING BY FAR THE MOST KUDOS. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW05858
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740092-0650
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740429/aaaaazwd.tel
Line Count: 50
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 OCT 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV TAKES HUGE LEAD IN LEGISLATIVE RACE
TAGS: PINT, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005